

9/1/00 Forklift Rollover

A 21-year-old worker, and nephew of the business owner, was killed when the lift truck (powered industrial truck) he was operating, tipped over.

The victim was using a borrowed lift truck to place tarps on top of a load on a truck. The victim was either in route to obtain more tarps, or was on his way back with more tarps. The victim was traveling with the forks fully raised to approximately 12 feet, which changed the center of gravity on the lift truck to tip. When he turned a corner, the top-heavy lift truck started turned over. The victim tried to jump free, but was crushed when the forklift landed on him. The victim was not wearing operator restraints (seatbelts, lap belts, etc.), and the victim had not been trained and evaluated in the use of this lift truck. In March of the same year, the safety and health standards that govern the use of powered industrial trucks in general industry (WAC 296-24-230) changed. Specific training elements and a requirement for the evaluation of the operator performance in the work place were included in the standard (WAC 296-24-23025). Additionally, a requirement for the use of an active operator protection restraint device such as seatbelts and lap bar (WAC 296-24-23027(15)) was written into the standard.

Questions to ask?

- Do you train and evaluate all lift truck operators in accordance with the standards?
- Do you require your operators to wear seatbelts or other types of restraints while operating the lift trucks?

The 2000 standards for Forklifts/Powered Industrial Trucks can be accessed [here](#).

An Online Presentation on Forklifts and Other Powered Industrial Trucks can be accessed [here](#).